

Highway 101 corridor project completion in sight

By Councilmember Rose Herrera
Special to the Times

The old adage, "it has to get worse before it gets better" is very applicable to the improvement projects in progress along Highway 101. While inconvenient in the short-term, the Highway 101 Corridor Completion is in sight thanks to a \$24 million boost from the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

Originally, the Highway 101 Corridor Project included both the Tully/101 and the Capitol/Yerba Buena improvements. In 2007, when funding for the entire project looked doubtful, the project was split into two with the Tully/101 project being funded first. I am thrilled that the CTC came through with the funding last month, enabling the completion of Capitol and Yerba Buena improvements.

Together with the 101 Tully Road project, these changes will greatly improve the traffic flow along 101 and the two major entryways into our community. As with any large public project there were many helping hands that made this happen including CTC Board Member Carl Guardino, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

As a VTA Board Member, I advocated using construction savings from the Tully/101 project to fund this last step and the CTC responded by combining those savings along with other statewide project savings to help toward the \$38 million total project cost. This means design and construction on the Capitol and Yerba Buena off ramps can begin. Here's an update on our congestion relief progress so far.

The Capitol/Yerba Buena project includes constructing a separate Yerba Buena Road off-ramp from southbound U.S. 101 and a southbound U.S. 101 auxiliary lane between the Capitol Expressway and Yerba Buena Road. Other improvements include modifying the Capitol Expressway interchange from full cloverleaf to partial cloverleaf and extending the fifth southbound lane from north of Capitol Expressway to south of Yerba Buena Road. Design completion on this project is expected to be com-

pleted next summer with construction to begin in the fall of 2012.

The U.S. 101/Tully Road Project, which remains in process, includes construction of one additional lane on southbound U.S. 101 from Story Road and modification of the interchange at Tully Road to a partial cloverleaf, and replacement of the existing Tully Road overcrossing. The project is scheduled to finish in winter 2012. To learn more about the current status of this project and any traffic advisories go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/101tully-road/>. My office will send out additional alerts for any significant road closures.

Not only are our freeway entrance and exit improvements important to the overall congestion relief plan, but expressways and major roads running through our area are under construction, too. Improvement to Aborn Road traffic is in progress right now with the addition of a third left turning lane onto Aborn from Capitol Expressway. This will be completed by the end of 2011.

As a preview of coming attractions you can expect to see construction on Capitol Expressway in the fall of 2011. Early in 2009, I fought to keep funding obligated to the Capitol Light Rail project. These improvements will bring substantial pedestrian, bike and landscaping improvements to Capitol Expressway from Capitol Avenue to Eastridge allowing people to more safely travel on foot or bike along the expressway. The landscaping and beautification aspects of this project will not only improve our environment and quality of life but are long awaited by businesses to bolster economic activity. This is all part of a phase I effort to bring light rail to Eastridge and is another example of my efforts to reduce traffic and shorten commutes by improving alternative modes of transportation. Construction on the Capitol Expressway improvements should be completed in the summer of



District 8 Report

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City Councilmember

2012.

I'm pleased to announce that I was able to get both the City of San José and VTA to include a pedestrian overcrossing from Thompson Creek at Quimby Road across Capitol Expressway to the new Eastridge Transit Center as one of the new projects planned.

A word of caution: please "slow for the cone zone" and help keep our hardworking CalTrans workers safe. Detour signs and changeable message signs will be posted to assist motorists during this closure. Please drive cautiously.

Safety for pedestrians and motorists is a concern for all of us. In response to the high number of car crashes in intersections along Capitol Expressway, the San José Police Department Traffic Enforcement Unit is implementing a pilot program to focus traf-

fic enforcement efforts along the Capitol Expressway between Tully and Tuers Roads. For the next two months, officers will strive to educate drivers on the types of driving violations that cause the most accidents. They will focus on four of the top bad driving habits: distraction (cell phone use such as texting), speed, right of way violations, and pedestrian violations. Motorists and pedestrians should expect to see increased enforcement of these sections in the pilot test area.

With these critical transportation improvements moving forward, I'm encouraged with our progress as a community and I look forward to the days of less time in the car and more time to enjoy all of the wonderful things Evergreen has to offer.

As always, my office is open to input or questions by emailing district8@sanjoseca.gov, or calling (408) 535-4908.

I want to keep you informed! Sign up for the District 8 newsletter. Go to www.sanjoseca.gov/district8.

Sports Briefs

Hawks All-Girl Soccer Academy at Evergreen Valley College

Sign up today for Hawks, Evergreen Valley College's all-girl Soccer Academy. Academy dates are from July 25 through July 29, and hours are 4 – 7 p.m. This Academy is for girls ages 5 – 18 years. For more information, contact coach Felicia Perez at 274-7900 x6910 or felicia.perez@evc.edu

Future Pros Summer Basketball Camp

Kids, do you love Basketball? Parents, do you need an affordable, safe and fun option to keep your kids busy this summer? Then check out Future Pros Basketball Camp – a high-quality five-day basketball camp for youth ages 7-14 that develops individual and team basketball skills. Experienced coaches will promote leadership and fun through a variety of activities. Drop off s are as early at 7:30am, pick ups as late as 5:30pm, perfect for the working family! Camp fee includes t-shirt, lunch, and snacks all week long. Camp will be held at Mt. Pleasant High School. Register by July 1st, and pay only \$95 for the entire week. (Multiple children discount). For more information or to register check out www.futureproscamp.com or call 926-2926.

Steve Sokol Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Register today for the Steve Sokol Memorial 5K Run/Walk, to be held on July 17 at Almaden Lake Park. Participants can choose from a 5K run or 5K walk when registering. Race time is 9 a.m., check in at 8:30 a.m. The Cost \$35 per entry and includes a T-shirt and goody bag. Refreshments and post-race snacks will be served. Registrations taken on-Line only and space is limited, so register early by visiting <http://www.svetiming.com/events/Steve-Sokol-Memorial-5k>. All proceeds benefit the Steve Sokol Memorial Fund.

2nd annual Journey for Jessica Walk-a-Thon July 30

On Aug. 2nd, 2009, then 18-year-old Jessica Huse was on her way to church when she was struck in her VW Beetle by an oncoming car.

Although she survived, Jessica sustained extensive brain trauma and was left in a "Semi Conscious State" since that day. Both her parents have left their full time careers to provide the round the clock care Jessica requires. In Sept 2010, Jessica was accepted into the one of kind program at the International Brain Research Foundation (IBRF) which specializes in waking patients like Jessica. The 2nd Annual fundraising walk-a-thon will be held at the Valley Christian High School campus, 100 Skyway Dr in San Jose on July 30. In addition to the walk, this event includes a raffle, auction, live music, BBQ and children's activities. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register for the event or donate to Journey for Jessica, visit www.journeyforjessica.com

7th Annual Sicilian Golf Festival

The Sons of Sicily, Aiuto Foundation will host its 7th Annual, Sicilian Golf Festival on Monday, August 1, 2011 at The Villages Golf & Country Club in San Jose. The shotgun start is slated for 12 noon with an authentic Italian Lunch provided to all participants. Proceeds raised directly benefit the Aiuto Foundation's educational, scholarship programs and the future of an Italian Cultural Center in San Jose. Members of the Sons of Sicily and its Women's Auxiliary Club organize the Sicilian Golf Festival. To date, we have awarded 63 scholarships since the onset of our event in 2005. The Sicilian Golf Festival is attended by family, friends, colleagues, business partners, former professional athletes and elected officials. We are so pleased to have found so much support we would love for you to join us!

Get listed!

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